SEMI-CLASSICAL MEASURES FOR INHOMOGENEOUS SCHRÖDINGER EQUATIONS ON TORI

by

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Abstract. — The purpose of this note is to investigate the high frequency behaviour of solutions to linear Schrödinger equations. More precisely, Bourgain [**2**] and Anantharaman-Macia [**1**] proved that any weak-$*$ limit of the square density of solutions to the time dependent homogeneous Schrödinger equation is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{T}^d$. Our contribution is that the same result automatically holds for non homogeneous Schrödinger equations, which allows for abstract potential type perturbations of the Laplace operator.

1. Introduction

We are interested in this note in understanding the high frequency behaviour of solutions of linear Schrödinger equations on tori, $\mathbb{T}^d = \mathbb{R}^d/\mathbb{Z}^d$. Consider a sequence of initial data $(u_{0,n})$, bounded in $L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)$ and denote by (u_n) the sequence of solutions to Schrödinger equation and (ν_n) their concentration measures given by

$$u_n = e^{it\Delta} u_{0,n}, \qquad \nu_n = |u_n|^2(t,x)dtdx,$$

The sequence ν_n on $\mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{T}^d$ is bounded (in mass) on any time interval $(0,T)$ by $T \sup_n \|u_{0,n}\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}$. The following result was proved by Bourgain [**2**, Remark p 108] and later by Anantharaman-Macia [**1**, Theorem 1] by a completely different approach, following a more geometric path (see also [**8, 9, 5, 6**] for related works).

Theorem 1. — *Any weak-$*$ limit of the sequence (ν_n) is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure $dtdx$ on $\mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{T}^d$.*

Remark 1.1. — Actually, in [**1**] a more precise description of the possible limits is given and the result is proved in the case of Schrödinger operators $\Delta + V(t,x)$, if $V \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{T}^2)$ is also continuous except possibly on a set of (space-time) Lebesgue measure 0.

The purpose of this note is to show that the result in Theorem 1 extends to the case of solutions to the non-homogeneous Schrödinger equation, and consequently to the case of Schrödinger operators $\Delta + V$ where $V \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}_t; \mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)))$. Let us emphasize that our approach uses no particular property of the Laplace operator on tori other than self-adjointness (to get L^2 bounds

for the time evolution) and the fact that Theorem 1 holds, which is used as a black box, and establishes an abstract link between the study of weak-$*$ limits of solutions of the homogeneous and inhomogeneous Schrödinger equations.

2. Inhomogeneous Schrödinger equations

Definition 2.1. — Let $T>0$. For any sequence (u_n) bounded in $L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^d)$, we say that the sequence (u_n) satisfies property (AC_T) if any weak-$*$ limit, ν of (ν_n) is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure on $(0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^d$.

Theorem 2. — *Let $(u_{n,0})$ and (f_n) be two sequences bounded in $L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)$ and $L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}_t;L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))$ respectively. Let u_n be the solution of*

$$(i\partial_t+\Delta)u_n=f_n,\qquad u_n\mid_{t=0}=u_{n,0},\qquad u_n=e^{it\Delta}u_{n,0}+\frac{1}{i}\int_0^t e^{i(t-s)\Delta}f_n(s)ds.$$

Then for any $T>0$, the sequence (u_n), which is clearly bounded in $L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2)$ by

$$T^{1/2}\sup_n\bigl(\|u_{n,0}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}+\|f_n\|_{L^1((0,T);L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))}\bigr),$$

satisfies property (AC_T).

Corollary 2.2. — *Let $V\in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}_t;\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{T}^2)))$ (for example V can be chosen to be a potential in $L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}_t;L^\infty(\mathbb{T}^2))$ acting by pointwize multiplication). For any sequence $(u_{n,0})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ bounded in $L^2(\mathbb{T}^2)$, let (u_n) be the sequence of the unique solutions in $C^0(\mathbb{R};L^2(\mathbb{T}^2))$ of*

$$(i\partial_t+\Delta+V(t))u_n=0,\qquad u_n\mid_{t=0}=u_{n,0}.$$

Then the sequence (u_n) satisfies for any $T>0$ the property (AC_T).

Indeed, since

$$\frac{d}{dt}\|u_n\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}=2\,\mathrm{Re}\bigl(\partial_t u,u\bigr)_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}=2\,\mathrm{Re}\bigl(i\Delta u+iVu,u\bigr)_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}=-2\,\mathrm{Im}(Vu,u)_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}$$

we obtain by Gronwall inequality

$$\|u_n(t)\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}\leq\|u_{n,0}\|^2_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)}e^{\int_0^t\|V(s)\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))}ds},$$

and consequently the sequence $(f_n)=(-V(t)u_n)$ is clearly bounded in $L^1_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}_t;L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))$ and we can apply Theorem 2.

Remark 2.3. — Any time independent $V\in\mathcal{L}(L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))$ satisfies the assumptions above, and consequently, if (u_n) is a sequence of L^2 normalized eigenfunctions of $\Delta+V$, it follows from Corollary 2.2 that any weak-$*$ limit of $|u_n|^2(x)dx$ is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{T}^d$. The proof we present below seems to be intrinsically a time dependent proof. However, it would be interesting to obtain a proof of this result avoiding the detour via the study of the time dependent Schrödinger equation.

Proof of Theorem 2.. — Notice first that if (u_n) satisfies property (AC_T), then the sequence $(u_n + v_n)$ satisfies property (AC_T) iff the sequence (v_n) satisfies property (AC_T), because, if $|u_n|^2 dtdx$ and $|v_n|^2 dtdx$ are converging weakly to ν and μ respectively, then according to Cauchy-Schwarz inequality any weak-$*$ limit of $|u_n + v_n|^2 dtdx$ is absolutely continuous with respect to $\nu + \mu$. The following result shows that the set of sequences satisfying property (AC_T) is closed in some weak-strong topology.

Lemma 2.4. — *Consider (u_n) bounded in $L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2)$. Assume that there exists for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$ a sequence $(u_n^{(k)})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ such that*

1. *For any k, the sequence $(u_n^{(k)})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ satisfies Property (AC_T)*
2. *The sequences $(u_n^{(k)})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ are approximating the sequence (u_n) in the following sense.*

$$\lim_{k\to+\infty} \limsup_{n\to+\infty} \|u_n - u_n^{(k)}\|_{L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2)} = 0. \tag{2.1}$$

Then the sequence $(u_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ satisfies property (AC_T).

Proof. — Indeed, for any $\epsilon > 0$, let k_0 be such that for any $k \geq k_0$,

$$\limsup_n \|u_n - u_{n,k}\|_{L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2)} < \epsilon.$$

Then, if ν and $\nu^{(k)}$ are weak-$*$ limits of the sequences $(u_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ and $(u_n^{(k)})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ respectively, associated to the same subsequence $n_p \to +\infty$, we have for any $f \in C^0((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2)$ and large n,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{(0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2} |u_{n_p}|^2 \chi dxdt &\leq \int_{(0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2} 2(|u_{n_p} - u_{n_p}^{(k)}|^2 + |u_{n_p}^{(k)}|^2) dxdt \\ &\leq 2\epsilon^2 + 2\int_{(0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^2} 2|u_{n_p}^{(k)}|^2)\chi dxdt. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

Passing to the limit $p \to +\infty$ we obtain

$$\langle \nu, \chi\rangle \leq 2\epsilon^2 + 2\langle \nu^{(k)}, \chi\rangle$$

On the other hand, according to Riesz Theorem (see e.g. [**10**, Theorem 2.14]) the measures $\nu, \nu^{(k)}$ which are defined on the Borelian σ-algebra, $\mathcal{M}$, are *regular* and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} &\forall E \in \mathcal{M}, \nu(E) = \sup_{F closed, F\subset E} \nu(U) = \inf_{U open, E\subset U} \nu(U), \\ &\forall E \in \mathcal{M}, \nu^{(k)}(E) = \sup_{F closed, F\subset E} \nu^{(k)}(U) = \inf_{U open, E\subset U} \nu^{(k)}(U). \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

For any $E \in \mathcal{M}$, taking $F_p \subset E$ and $E \subset O_p$ such that

$$\lim_{p\to+\infty} \nu(F_p) = \nu(E), \lim_{p\to+\infty} \nu^{(k)}(O_p) = \nu^{(k)}(E)$$

and $\chi_p \in C_0((0,1)\times\mathbb{T}^d;[0,1])$ equal to 1 on F_p and supported in O_p, we obtain according to (2.2)

$$\nu(E) \leq 2\epsilon^2 + 2\nu^{(k)}(E).$$

Consider now E a subset of $(0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^d$-Lebesgue measure 0. Since by assumption $\nu^{(k)}$ is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure, we have $\nu^{(k)}(E) = 0$, and hence $\nu(E) \leq 2\epsilon^2$

and consequently, since $\epsilon > 0$ can be taken arbitrarily small, we have $\nu(E) = 0$, which proves that ν is also absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure. $\square$

We come back to the proof of Theorem 2 and fix $T > 0$. According to Duhamel formula.

$$u_n = e^{it\Delta} u_{0,n} + \frac{1}{i}\int_0^t e^{i(t-s)\Delta} f_n(s)ds.$$

According to the remark above, since we know that the sequence $(e^{it\Delta}u_{0,n})$ satisfies property (AC_T), it is enough to prove that the sequence $(v_n) = (\int_0^t e^{i(t-s)} f_n(s)ds)$ satisfies property (AC_T). The key point of the analysis is to remark that if instead of v_n we had

$$\tilde{v}_n = \int_0^T e^{i(t-s)\Delta} V u_n(s)ds = e^{it\Delta} g_n, \qquad g_n = \int_0^T e^{-is\Delta} V e^{is(\Delta+V)} u_{n,0}(s)ds,$$

then, we could conclude using Theorem 1 because $\tilde{v_n}$ is a solution to the homogeneous Schrödinger equation with initial data the bounded sequence (g_n). To pass from $\tilde{v}_n$ to v_n, we adapt an idea borrowed from harmonic analysis (Christ-Kiselev' Lemma [**7**]), in the simple form written in Burq-Planchon [**4**] (see also [**3**]). Here the idea is to show that the sequence (v_n) can be approximated by other sequences $(v_n^{(k)})$ in the sense of (2.1) (actually, we get a stronger convergence, as we can replace the lim sup in (2.1) by a sup), where each $(v_n^{(k)})$ is a finite sum of solutions of the homogeneous Schrödinger equation, properly truncated in time, and hence satisfy property (AC_T). Let

$$\|f_n\|_{L^1((0,T);L^2(\mathbb{T}^2))} = c_n \leq C.$$

We decompose the interval $(0, T)$ into dyadic pieces on which the $L^1_t; L^2_x$ norm of f_n is equal to $2^{-q}c_n$. For this, we construct recursively (on the index $q \in \mathbb{N}$) sequences $(t_{p,q,n})_{\substack{q\in\mathbb{N}\\ p=1,\dots,2^q}}$ such that

- $0 = t_{0,q,n} < t_{1,q,n} < \cdots < t_{2^q,q,n} = T$,
- $\|f_n\|_{L^1((t_{p,q,n},t_{p+1,q,n});L^2(\mathbb{T}^2))} = 2^{-q}c_n$,
- for any $p = 0, \cdots 2^{q-1}$, $t_{2p,q,n} = t_{p,q-1,n}$.

Notice that if the function

$$G_n : t \in [0, T] \mapsto \|f_n\|_{L^1((0,t);L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))} \in [0, c_n]$$

is strictly increasing, the points $t_{p,q,n}$ are uniquely determined by the relation $G_n(t_{p,q,n}) = p2^{-q}c_n$, and the last condition above is automatic. In the general case, the function G_n (which is clearly non decreasing) can have some flat parts, consequently the points $t_{p,q,n}$ may be no more unique and the last condition above ensures that the choice made at step $q + 1$ is consistent with the choice made at step q. For $j = 0, \dots, 2^q - 1$, let

$$I_{j,q,n} = [t_{2j,q,n}, t_{2j+1,q,n}[, \qquad J_{j,q,n} = [t_{2j+1,q,n}, t_{2j+2,q,n}[, \qquad Q_{j,q,n} = J_{j,q,n} \times I_{j,q,n}.$$

Notice that

$$\{((t,s) \in [0,T[^2; s \leq t\} = \bigsqcup_{q=0}^{+\infty} \bigsqcup_{j=0}^{2^q-1} Q_{j,q,n} \Rightarrow 1_{s\leq t} = \sum_{q=0}^{+\infty}\sum_{j=0}^{2^q-1} 1_{Q_{j,q,n}}(t,s).$$

We now have (if we are able to prove that the series in q converges)

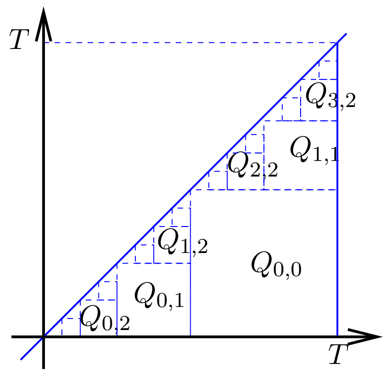

FIGURE 1. Decomposition of a triangle as a union of disjoint squares

$$
\begin{aligned}
v_n = \int_0^t e^{i(t-s)\Delta} f_n(s)ds &= \int_0^T 1_{s<t} e^{i(t-s)\Delta} f_n(s)ds \\
&= \sum_{q=0}^{+\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{2^q-1} 1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}} \int_0^T e^{i(t-s)\Delta} 1_{s\in I_{j,q,n}} f_n(s)ds = \sum_{q=0}^{+\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{2^q-1} 1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}} e^{it\Delta} g_{j,q,n} ds, \quad (2.4)
\end{aligned}
$$

with

$$
\begin{gathered}
g_{j,q,n}(x) = \int_0^T e^{-is\Delta} 1_{s\in I_{j,q,n}} f_n(s)ds = \int_{t_{2j,q,n}}^{t_{2j+1,q,n}} e^{-is\Delta} f_n(s)ds, \\
\|g_{j,q,n}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d)} \leq \|f_n\|_{L^1((t_{2j,q,n}, t_{2j+1,q,n}T); L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))} = 2^{-q} c_n.
\end{gathered} \quad (2.5)
$$

Let

$$
v_n^{(k)} = \sum_{q=0}^{k} \sum_{j=0}^{2^q-1} 1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}} e^{it\Delta} g_{j,q,n} ds.
$$

Noticing that if a sequence (w_n) satisfies property(AC_T), then for any sequences $0 \leq t_{1,n} < t_{2,n} \leq T$, the sequence $(1_{t\in(t_{1,n},t_{2,n})} w_n)$ satisfies property(AC_T), we see that for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the sequence $(v_n^{(k)})$ satisfies property (AC_T). On the other hand, since for $j \neq j'$, $1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}}$ and $1_{t\in J_{j',q,n}}$ have disjoint supports, we get, according to (2.5),

$$
\begin{aligned}
\| \sum_{j=0}^{2^q-1} 1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}} e^{it\Delta} g_{j,q,n} \|_{L^\infty((0,T);L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))} &\leq \sup_{0\leq j\leq 2^q-1} \|1_{t\in J_{j,q,n}} e^{it\Delta} g_{j,q,n}\|_{L^\infty((0,T);L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))} \\
&\leq \sup_{0\leq j\leq 2^q-1} \|g_{j,q,n}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T}^d))} \leq 2^{-q} c_n \quad (2.6)
\end{aligned}
$$

As a consequence, we get that the series (2.4) is convergent and

$$
\|v_n - v_n^{(k)}\|_{L^2((0,T)\times\mathbb{T}^d)} \leq \sqrt{T} c_n 2^{-k} \leq C 2^{-k},
$$

which, according to Lemma 2.4, concludes the proof of Theorem 2. $\square$

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